REPORT No. 563

CALCULATED AND MEASURED PRESSURE DISTRIBUTIONS OVER THE MIDSPAN SECTION OF THE N. A. C. A. 4412 AIRFOIL

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SUMMARY

Pressures were simultaneously measured in the variable-density tunnel at 54 orifices distributed over the midspan section of a 5- by 30-inch rectangular model of the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil at 17 angles of attack ranging from -20° to 30° at a Reynolds Number of approximately 3,000,000. Accurate data were thus obtained for studying the deviations of the results of potential-flow theory from measured results. The results of the analysis and a discussion of the experimental technique are presented.

It is shown that theoretical calculations made either at the effective angle of attack or at a given actual lift do not accurately describe the observed pressure distribution over an airfoil section. There is therefore developed a modified theoretical calculation that agrees reasonably well with the measured results of the tests of the N. A. C. A. 4412 section and that consists of making the calculations and evaluating the circulation by means of the experimentally obtained lift at the effective angle of attack; i. e., the angle that the chord of the model makes with the direction of the flow in the region of the section under consideration. In the course of the computations the shape parameter ϵ is modified, thus leading to a modified or an effective profile shape that differs slightly from the specified shape.

INTRODUCTION

Pressure-distribution measurements over an airfoil section provide, directly, the knowledge of the air-force distribution along the chord that is required for some purposes. In addition, such data, when compared with the results of potential-flow (nonviscous fluid) theory, provide a means of studying the effects of viscous forces on the flow about the airfoil section.

The results of experimental pressure measurements for a few miscellaneous airfoils may be found in various publications. The general application of this method of obtaining design data, however, is limited because of the expense of making such measurements.

A method of calculating the pressure distribution is developed in references 1 and 2. This method, based on the "ideal fluid" or potential-flow theory, gives the meet the demands of the subsequent analysis.

local velocities over the surface; the pressures are calculated by means of Bernoulli's equation. Although this method provides an inexpensive means of obtaining the distribution of pressure, the results may not be in satisfactory agreement with measured results. Such disagreement, however, is not surprising since the theory does not account for the effects of the viscous boundary layer.

A reasonably accurate method of calculating the pressure distribution over an airfoil section is desirable and might be obtained by two procedures. First, such a method might be found by the development of a complete theory. Such a theory, however, must take into account all the factors or phenomena involved and must give satisfactory agreement with actual measurement. A second procedure, the most feasible one at present, is the development of a rational method of correcting the application of the potential-flow theory to minimize the discrepancies between the theoretical and measured results.

It was realized, however, that unusually reliable experimental pressure-distribution data for comparison with calculations were not available. The experiments to obtain such data consisted of pressure measurements at a large number of points around one section of an airfoil. Because the investigation was primarily intended to study deviations of the actual from the ideal, or potential, flow, the tests were made in the variable-density tunnel over a range of values of the Reynolds Number, representing varying effects of viscosity. In addition, tests were made in the 24-inch high-speed tunnel at certain corresponding values of the Reynolds Number obtained by means of high speeds, thereby bringing out the effects of compressibility. Parts of this experimental investigation outside the scope of this report are still incomplete.

The present report, which presents the most important of the experimental results (those corresponding to the highest value of the Reynolds Number), is divided into two parts. The first part comprises the description and discussion of the experimental technique: Materials that are essential to establish the fact that the measured results are sufficiently accurate and reliable to meet the demands of the subsequent analysis. The

second part presents a comparison of theoretically calculated results with measured results and an analysis of the differences and probable causes. A method is developed to modify the application of potential-flow theory in order to minimize discrepancies from the measured pressure distributions.

EXPERIMENTAL PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION

APPARATUS AND TESTS

The experimental investigation described herein was made in the variable-density wind tunnel (reference 3). The model used was a standard duralumin airfoil having

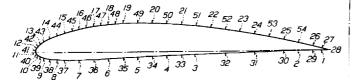


FIGURE 1.- Distribution of pressure orifices about the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil.

the N. A. C. A. 4412 section and a rectangular plan form with a span of 30 inches and a chord of 5 inches. It was modified by replacing a midspan section 1 inch in length with a brass section in which the pressure orifices were located. The 54 orifices, each 0.008 inch in diameter, were drilled perpendicularly into the airfoil surface and placed in 2 rows about the airfoil. The method and accuracy of construction of the model are described in reference 3. In order to evaluate the pressure force parallel to the chord, a relatively large number of orifices were located at the nose of the airfoil (fig. 1); well-defined distributions of pressure along a normal to the chord were thus assured. The locations of the pressure orifices are included in table I. Brass tubes were connected to the orifices and carried in grooves in the lower surface of the airfoil to the planes of the supporting struts where they were brought out of the model. After the model was assembled, the grooves were covered with a plate carefully faired into the surface. The tubing extended through the tunnel wall into the dead-air space and the part exposed to the air stream together with the support struts was faired into a single unit (fig. 2). The tubes were connected by rubber tubing to a photorecording multiple-tube manometer mounted in the dead-air space.

Figure 3 shows the 60-tube manometer, composed of 30-inch glass tubes arranged in a semicircle and connected at the lower ends to a common reservoir. The total-head pressure of the air stream was chosen as the reference pressure and was measured by a pitot head, mounted as shown in figure 2, to which four equally spaced manometer tubes were connected. The dynamic pressure of the air stream was determined by two tubes connected to the calibrated static-pressure orifices used in the normal operation of the tunnel. One tube was connected to a set of four orifices spaced around the inner wall of the return passage and the other tube to a set of four orifices spaced around the entrance cone

near the test section. The remaining 54 tubes, used to measure the pressure at the orifices on the airfoil, were connected to the tubes leading to the airfoil model.

A lighttight box mounted on the flat side of the semicircle contained drums for holding photostat paper and the necessary operating mechanism. The manometer was arranged so that it could be operated from outside the tank that houses the tunnel.

The manometer characteristics determined by trial included the time required for the meniscuses to become steady and the proper exposure of the photostat paper.

A record of the heights of the manometer fluid in the glass tubes was taken at each of 17 angles of attack

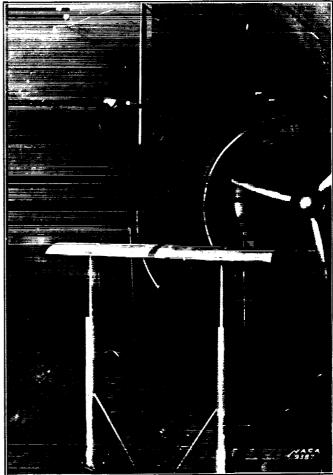


FIGURE 2.—Pressure-distribution model mounted in the tunnel.

from -20° to 30° at a Reynolds Number of approximately 3,000,000.

In order to keep the results as accurate as possible, it was necessary to obtain large deflections of the manometer liquids, which was accomplished by using two liquids of widely different specific gravities.

 Liquid:
 Specific gravity

 Mercury
 13. 6

 Tetrabromoethane
 3. 6

The proper choice of the angle-of-attack groups and of the liquid enabled the use of large and comparable

peat tests, using the same and different manometer by the following expressions: liquids, provided data on the precision of the tests.

RESULTS

A copy of a sample photostat record is shown in figure 4. The pressures in inches of manometer fluid were measured to 0.01 inch. All measurements were made from a reference line obtained by drawing a line connecting the meniscuses of the four reference tubes. The quantities thus obtained from the photostat records were:

$$\Delta p = H - p$$

where H is the total-head pressure of the stream and p, the pressure at the airfoil orifice; and

$$q = \text{factor} \times \Delta p_s$$

where q is the dynamic pressure and Δp_s is the difference in pressure between the static-pressure orifices in the entrance cone and those in the return passage. The factor was previously determined by comparing values of Δp_s with simultaneous values of the dynamic pressure obtained with a calibrated pitot-static tube mounted in the air stream in the absence of a model-Finally, the pressures on the airfoil were computed as ratios to the dynamic pressure, thereby making the results independent of manometer liquid.

Bernoulli's equation for the undisturbed stream becomes

$$p_{\infty}+\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2=H$$

where p_{∞} is the pressure and V the velocity. The pressure of the fluid at the wing orifice is given by

$$p = H - \Delta p$$

Substitute for H from the previous equation and remember that $\frac{1}{2}\rho V^2 = q$, the dynamic pressure, then

$$p = p_{\infty} + q - \Delta p$$

Consider p_{∞} as the datum pressure. The pressure coefficient then becomes

$$P = \frac{p - p_{\infty}}{q} = 1 - \frac{\Delta p}{q}$$

where Δp and q are quantities obtained from the photostat records as previously described. Values of P at each orifice on the airfoil and for all angles of attack are tabulated in table I.

Figure 5 (a, b, c) presents plots of P against orifice position along the chord and against position perpendic-

deflections throughout the angle-of-attack range. Re- | and the pitching-moment coefficients, which are defined

$$c_n = \frac{1}{c} \int P dx$$

$$c_c = \frac{1}{c} \int P dy$$

$$c_{m_{c/4}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \left[\int P \left(\frac{c}{4} - x \right) dx + \int P y dy \right]$$

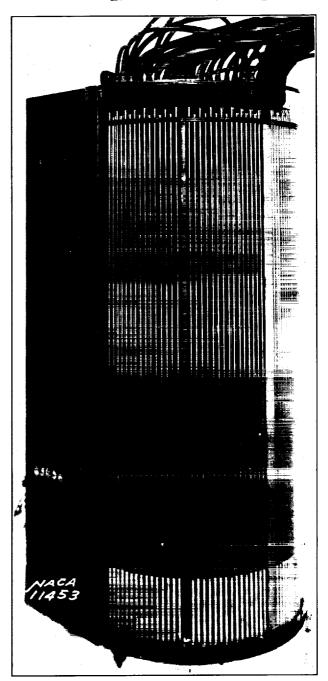


FIGURE 3.—Photorecording multiple-tube manometer.

ular to the chord for each angle of attack. Large-scale where c is the chord, x is the orifice station along the plots similar to those presented here were mechanically | chord, and y is the orifice ordinate measured from the integrated to obtain the normal-force, the chord-force, chord. The lower-case symbols c_n , c_c , $c_{m_{c/4}}$ designate

section characteristics and refer respectively to the normal-force, chord-force, and pitching-moment coefficients for the midspan section of the airfoil. Plots of these coefficients (see table II) against geometric angle of attack are given in figure 6. The geometric angle of attack α is measured from the mean direction of the flow in the tunnel. This direction is defined as the zero-lift direction of a symmetrical airfoil in the tunnel and was found to be equivalent to 20' of upflow. In order to have true section characteristics (2-dimensional) for comparison with theoretical calculations, a determination must be made of the effective angle of attack, i. e., the angle that the chord of This lift coefficient is obtained from the pressure

where w is the induced normal velocity produced by the vortex system of the airfoil, including the tunnel-wall interference, and V is the velocity of the undisturbed flow. In order to calculate the induced velocity w, the distribution of the lift (or circulation) along the span of the airfoil must be determined. A theoretical method of obtaining this distribution is given in reference 4 and, when applied to this problem, gives for the induced angle of attack of the midspan section

$$\alpha_i = 1.584 \ c_1$$

where c_i is the lift coefficient for the midspan section.

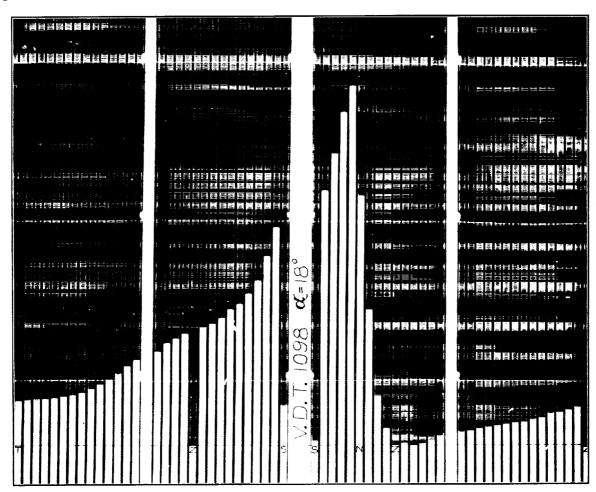


FIGURE 4.--Copy of sample record. N, leading-edge orifice tube; S, static-pressure tubes; T, trailing-edge orifice tube; and Z, reference-pressure tubes.

the model makes with the direction of flow in the region | measurements by means of the equation of the midspan section of the model.

The effective angle of attack, corresponding to the angle for 2-dimensional flow, is given by

$$\alpha_0 = \alpha - \alpha_i$$

where α_i is the angle that the flow in the region of the airfoil section makes with the direction of the undisturbed flow. The amount of this deviation is small and can be calculated from

$$\alpha_i = \frac{w}{V}$$

$$c_1 = c_n \cos \alpha - c_c \sin \alpha$$

Values of c_i , α_i , and α_0 are given in table II.

The reliability of the results of the pressure measurements reported herein may be determined by consideration of the technique of obtaining and measuring the pressure records, of the deviations of the pressure diagrams obtained from several tests at the same angle of attack, and of the method of calculating the effective angle of attack.

the pressure coefficients used in the analysis are ratios at the end of each test run under the same conditions.

The method of obtaining the pressure records is a | to become steady and by delaying the taking of the direct, simultaneous, photographic recording of the record at each angle of attack until sufficient time had height of the liquid in the manometer tubes. Since elapsed. As a further check, a zero record was taken

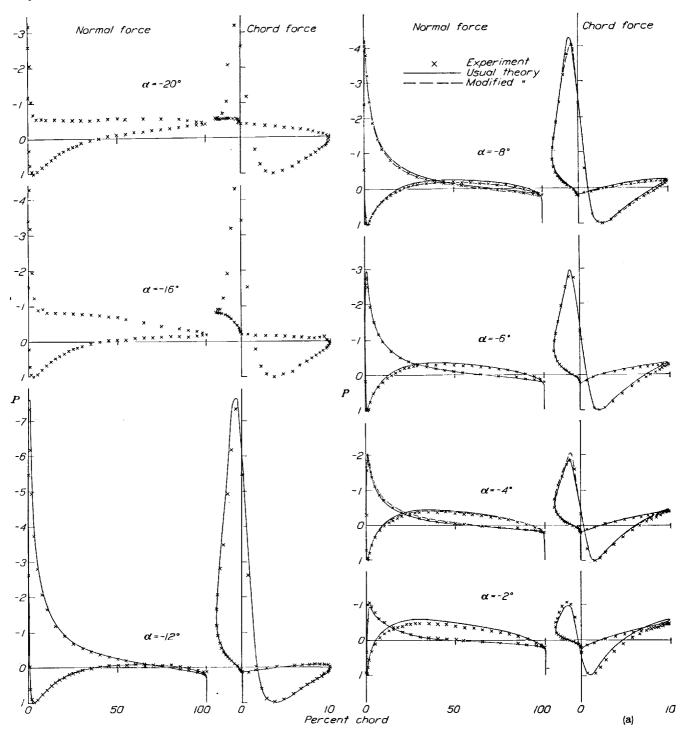


FIGURE 5a.—Experimental and theoretical pressure-distribution diagrams for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil at several angles of attack.

mining the time required for the liquid in all the tubes ently by two persons. The readings were then com-

of quantities taken from the same record, the primary | In addition, the tubes were checked for leaks before source of error therefore lies in the unequal damping in and after each run. In order to minimize any possible the tubes connecting the airfoil orifices to the manom- error in reading the photostatic records (fig. 4) measureeter. This source of error was minimized by deter- ments of the recorded pressures were made independ-

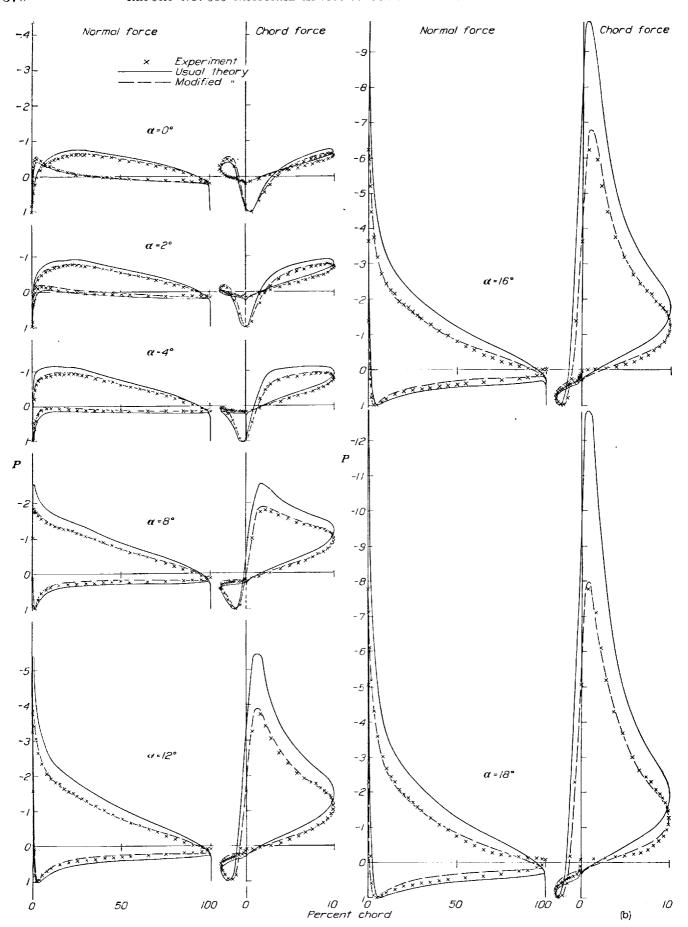


Figure 5b.—Experimental and theoretical pressure-distribution diagrams for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil at several angles of attack.

in the case of obvious errors. Possible errors due to deflections, gave more accurate results, which agreed

pared and a compromise was made where differences | from several tests at the same angle of attack. Figure 7 The differences between any two such presents such diagrams at two angles of attack, -4° independent readings rarely exceeded 0.01 inch except and 8°. Tetrabromoethane, because of the larger

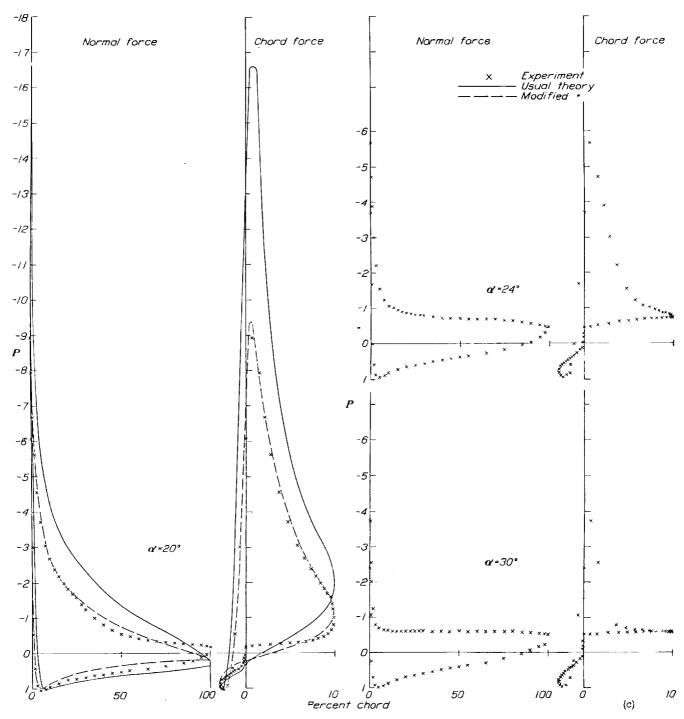


FIGURE 5c.-Experimental and theoretical pressure-distribution diagrams for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil at several angles of attack

ratio of two pressures obtained from the same record; namely, the ratio of the pressure at a wing orifice to tion from the mean values was approximately ± 3 perthe dynamic pressure.

by the variations of the pressure diagrams obtained a consistent difference between repeat tests and may

shrinkage of the records were avoided by the use of the | very closely with the mean values obtained from repeated mercury tests, of which the greatest deviacent of the dynamic pressure. This deviation is not a The precision of the measured results is indicated | random scattering of points from any given test but is be partly accounted for by a possible small difference in angle of attack. Figure 7 (b) also includes the results of tests made before and after carefully polishing the midspan section of the model. The change in surface smoothness and a slight change in fairness had no discernible effect on the distribution; the differences were

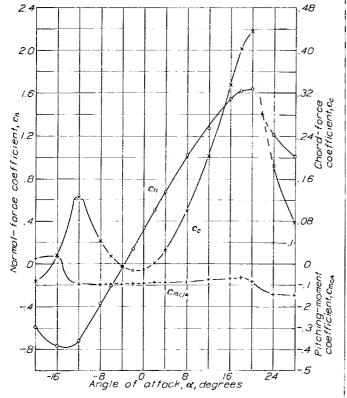


FIGURE 6.—Normal- and chord-force coefficients, and pitching-moment coefficients about the quarter-chord point. The numerical value of c_t should be prefixed by a minus sign.

less than those obtained by repeat tests of the same surface.

The determination of the effective angle of attack of the midspan section entails certain assumptions that are subject to considerable uncertainty. First, the angle of attack of this section may be in error because of the assumption that the deviation of the air-stream axis from the tunnel axis is uniform along the span of the model; i. e., that the geometric angle of attack α is the same for all sections along the span. Actually there is some variation of the air-stream direction across the tunnel. Because of the interference of the support struts, the deflection of the stream in this region might reasonably be expected to exceed the deflection at the midspan section; hence, the deflection at the midspan section is probably less than the effective mean value. Furthermore, a zero deflection of the stream at the midspan section would bring the angle of zero lift obtained from the pressure tests into agreement with force-test results.

A second and rather large source of error lies in the in the assumed direction of the stream. On the other determination of the induced angle of attack. The hand, the angles may be too small by approximately method used probably produces erroneous results $c_l/2^{\circ}$, owing to the error in the induced-angle calculations.

because of the fact that the tips of a rectangular wing carry a larger proportion of the load than is indicated by the theoretical calculations on which the method is based. To make an accurate experimental determination of the lift distribution on which to base the inducedangle calculations would require pressure measurements at several sections along the span, especially near the tips. An estimate can be made, however, of the possible error in the induced angles of attack given herein by comparison of the deduced slopes of the lift curve for infinite aspect ratio obtained from these tests and from the best force-test data available. Such a comparison indicates that the induced angle of attack may be approximately two-thirds of the calculated values given herein, which would mean a possible error of approximately 1/2° for a lift coefficient of 1.

It is evident, therefore, that the effective angles of attack are subject to a considerable error of uncertain magnitude. Approximate possible errors have been

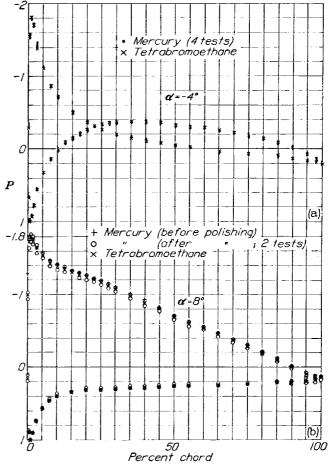


FIGURE 7.—Pressure-distribution diagrams from several tests at two angles of attack.

estimated and summarized as follows: The values of the angles as given may be too large by a constant error of approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ ° because of a possible error in the assumed direction of the stream. On the other hand, the angles may be too small by approximately $c_l/2$ °, owing to the error in the induced-angle calculations.

THEORETICAL PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION POTENTIAL-FLOW THEORY

for potential flow and assumes an ideal fluid that is potential field about the airfoil.

mined by means of the same transformations. References 1 and 2 present detailed discussions of the under-A theoretical determination of the distribution of lying theory and the derivation of the necessary equapressure about an airfoil section has been developed tions for the calculation of the characteristics of the

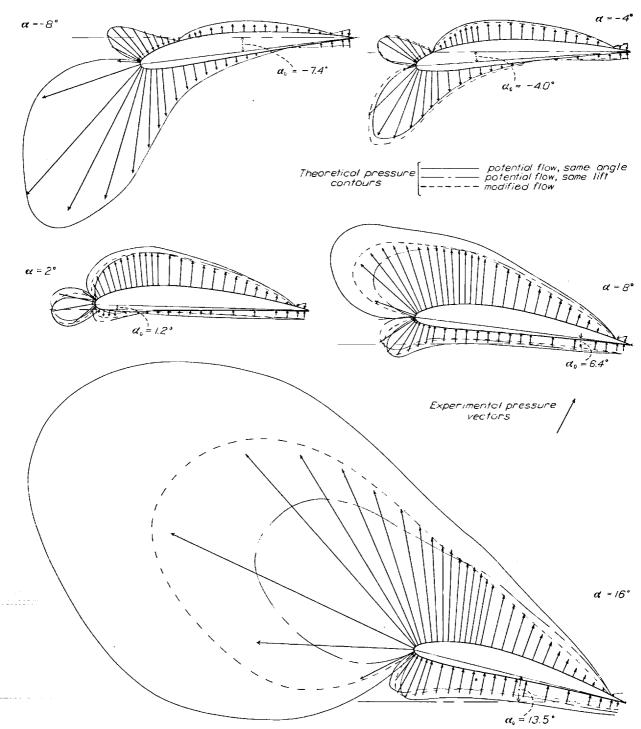


FIGURE 8.—Pressure-vector diagrams for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil at several angles of attack.

nonviscous and incompressible. Briefly, the method consists of the conformal transformation of the airfoil airfoil section in a potential flow as given in reference 1 section into a circle. Then, inasmuch as the flow is about the circle can readily be calculated, the flow characteristics about the airfoil section can be deter-

The general equation for the local velocity about an

$$v = Vk \left[\sin(\theta + \epsilon + \alpha) + \frac{\Gamma}{4\pi RV} \right]$$
 (1)

where

$$k = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{d\epsilon}{d\theta}\right)e^{\psi_{0}}}{\sqrt{(\sinh^{2}\psi + \sin^{2}\theta)\left[1 + \left(\frac{d\psi}{d\theta}\right)^{2}\right]}}$$
(2)

V is the velocity of the undisturbed stream.

 α , the angle of attack (2-dimensional).

Γ, the circulation.

 θ , ψ , ϵ , parameters that are functions of the airfoil coordinates.

 ψ_0 , the mean value of ψ .

 $R=ae^{\psi_0}$, the radius of the conformal circle about which the flow is calculable.

In order to calculate the velocity field from equation (1) the circulation must be evaluated. This evalua-

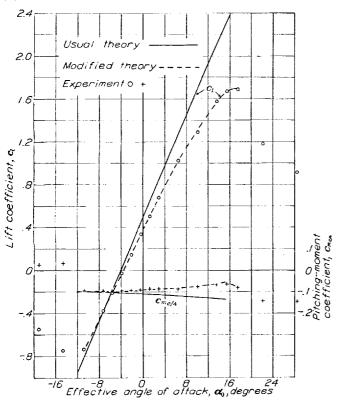


FIGURE 9.-Lift and pitching-moment section characteristics for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil.

tion is done by the use of the Kutta condition, which requires that the velocity at the trailing edge $(\theta = \pi)$ be zero so that equation (1) becomes

$$v = Vk[\sin(\theta + \epsilon + \alpha) + \sin(\alpha + \epsilon_T)]$$
 (1a)

where ϵ_T is the value of ϵ at $\theta = \pi$ (trailing edge).

The angle of zero lift is equal to $-\epsilon_T$.

The necessary equations and a step-by-step description of the calculation of the velocity field are given later. The pressure coefficients are computed by means of Bernoulli's equation,

$$P = \frac{p - p_{\infty}}{q} = 1 - \left(\frac{v}{V}\right)^2 \tag{3}$$

where p is the pressure at the airfoil surface and $p \infty$ the pressure of the free stream.

COMPURISON OF THEORY AND EXPERIMENT

The theoretical distributions of pressure have been calculated for the 2-dimensional angles of attack corresponding to the measured distributions on the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil. Comparisons of the calculated and measured distributions are presented in figure 5 (excluding the diagrams after the airfoil has stalled) and in figure 8. Figure 5 presents the usual normal- and chord-component pressure diagrams and provides a means for a general study of the differences between the theory and experiment as a function of angle of attack. Figure 8 provides a more detailed study at a few angles of attack and presents vector diagrams for the angles of -8° , -4° , 2° , 8° , and 16° . These diagrams were obtained by plotting the pressure coefficients normal to the airfoil profile; the perpendicular distance from the profile line represents the magnitude of the coefficient. The experimental pressures are represented by the drawn vectors and the theoretical pressures by the solid contour line. The other contour lines represent certain modified calculations to be discussed later.

It is immediately evident that the theoretical results do not satisfactorily agree with the actual measurements except for angles of attack near -8°, corresponding approximately to the angle at which the experimental and theoretical lifts are the same (fig. 9). The comparisons in figure 5 show, moreover, that with increasing angle of attack the differences between theory and experiment become larger as predicted by the higher slope of the theoretical lift curve. A detailed study of the vector diagrams (fig. 8) shows how these differences vary around the profile of the airfoil. The largest differences occur in the regions of low pressures, or the high-velocity areas, and as previously stated they increase with increasing angle of attack. Furthermore, the percentage difference in pressure is larger near the trailing edge than in the region of the nose, indicating a progressive influence on the flow as it moves over the airfoil surface.

The effect of these differences in the pressure distribution on the pitching-moment characteristics is shown in figure 9. The theoretical pitching moment about the quarter-chord point was obtained by integrating theoretical pressure diagrams. The results show an increasing diving moment with increasing angle of attack, whereas the diving moment actually decreases.

The comparisons have thus far been made at the same relative angle of attack, that is, for the angle of attack in 2-dimensional flow. Another condition of comparison that has been used more or less regularly in previous studies is suggested; it allows a comparison at the same lift and consists in comparing the theoretical distribution calculated at an angle of attack that gives a theoretical lift equal to the experimental

This method has been used for the diagrams in figure 8 and the distributions thus calculated are represented thereon by the long-and-short-dash contour lines. Again the differences are too large to be neglected, especially at angles of attack where a large lift is obtained. At -8° the curve coincides with the previously described contour, since the angle and the lift are the same, while at -4° the distribution calculated on the basis of the same lift is approximately the same as the dashed contour representing a third calculation presented herein. At the higher angles of attack the calculated distributions depart progressively in shape from the measured distributions. It may therefore be concluded that, on the basis of these comparisons, the usual calculations from the potential theory do not give an accurate determination of the distribution of pressure about an airfoil.

The inaccurate prediction of the forces on an airfoil by the usual potential-flow theory is not surprising since the theory neglects the frictional force of the viscuous fluid acting on the airfoil. The direct effect of this force, which acts tangential to the direction of the local flow, is important only on the drag and contributes what is known as the "skin-friction" drag. Because of the small magnitude and the direction of this force, the component in the direction of the lift is probably negligible, the lift being determined entirely by the pressure forces. The indirect effect, however, of this friction force is the deceleration of the air in a thin layer near the surface of the airfoil and the production of the so-called "boundary-layer" phenomena, which are important in the development of lift by an airfoil. In the boundary layer the velocity changes rapidly from zero at the surface of the airfoil to the value of the local stream velocity at the outer limit of the layer. The loss of energy involved in overcoming the friction forces results in a cumulation of slowly moving air as the flow moves back along the airfoil; hence the boundary-layer thickness increases toward the trailing edge. This cumulative effect is indicated by the progressive increase in the differences between the theoretical and measured pressures.

From this discussion it is not to be presumed that agreement between the measured and calculated results should occur at zero lift, except approximately for a symmetrical airfoil section. The velocity distributions over the upper and lower surfaces of an asymmetrical section are not the same, even at zero lift. The viscous effects on the flow over the two surfaces at the calculated angle of zero lift are therefore different and a lift is measured, which is negative for most sections. Actually, then, the experimental and theoretical angles of zero lift are not the same and for normal sections the two lift curves intersect at a negative value of the lift coefficient.

Outside the boundary layer the viscous forces can avoided by probably be considered negligible and the flow a described.

potential one; probably the pressures may also be considered as being transmitted undiminished through the thin boundary layer. The actual flow might therefore be replaced by a potential flow about a shape slightly different from that defined by the airfoil coordinates, which would require the determination of the boundary-layer thickness to define the effective profile shape. The pressure about the new shape could then be computed by the potential theory. Boundary-layer calculations, however, are at present subject to uncertainties that would cast doubt on the validity of the results and, in addition, the computations are difficult and tedious.

MODIFIED THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS

A simpler and more practical method of calculating the pressure over an airfoil section has been developed

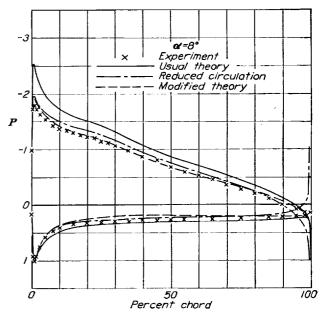


FIGURE 10.—Effect of an arbitrary reduction of the circulation on the calculated pressure distribution.

as a result of the foregoing analysis. The analysis shows that theoretical distributions calculated at the true angle of attack are similar in shape to the true distributions but give too high a lift. Conversely, when the theoretical distributions are calculated at an angle of attack that gives the same lift as the experimental distribution, the two distributions are dissimilar in shape.

The modified calculation is made at the effective angle of attack but the circulation is determined from the experimentally measured lift instead of by the Kutta-Joukowsky method. The preliminary calculations made on this basis resulted in an excessive velocity and a consequent high suction pressure at the trailing edge, as shown in figure 10. This unsatisfactory result (shown by the dot-dash line in fig. 10) was finally avoided by means of a further modification subsequently described.

Since a change in the effective profile shape has been | predicted by boundary-layer considerations, an arbitrary modification of the shape parameter ϵ is made so that the velocity becomes zero at $\theta = \pi$. (See equation (1).) The shape is thus altered to satisfy again the Kutta-Joukowsky condition. In order to maintain the continuity of the ϵ curve, a study has been made of the manner in which ϵ should be modified. The indicated cumulative effects of the viscous forces toward the

tions obtained by means of the modified calculations are given by the dashed lines. The relative merit of the unaltered potential theory and the modified method for the calculation of the pressure distribution about an airfoil section is shown in figures 5, 8, and 9.

The following step-by-step description of the computations required to obtain the calculated pressure distribution is given in sufficient detail to enable the calculations for any airfoil to be made. The local velocity trailing edge show that most of the change in ϵ should about the airfoil is computed by means of equation (1)

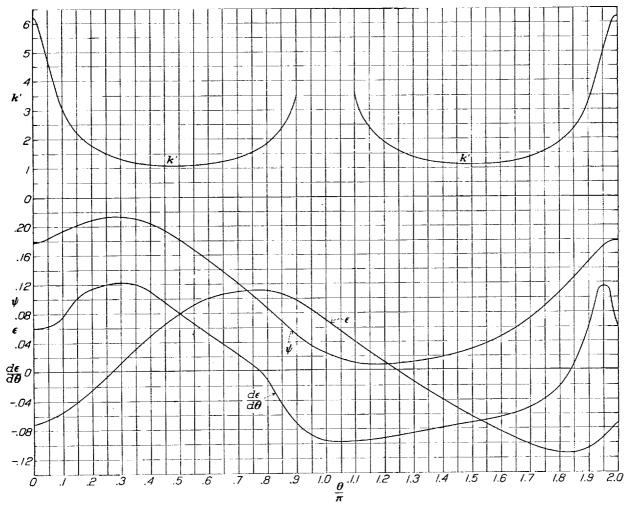


FIGURE 11.—Theoretical parameters required to compute the theoretical pressures on the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil.

probably be made in that region. Inasmuch as the effect of changing ϵ is not critical for different distributions of the change, provided that most of the change is made near the trailing edge of the airfoil, a purely arbitrary distribution is chosen that permits ready application, namely, a sinusoidal variation with θ .

The ϵ curve and subsequently the other parameters must be modified for each angle of attack. This modification has been made and the corresponding pressure distributions determined for several angles of attack. (See figs. 5 and 8.) At -8° the distribution is the same as that shown by the solid line representing the unaltered theory. In the other diagrams the distribu- at the trailing edge; the coordinates of these points are

modified as indicated by the preceding discussion. The detailed forms of the modifications are introduced as they appear in the course of routine computations.

In order that the transformation from the airfoil to its conformal circle may be of a convenient form, the coordinate axes are selected so that the profile is as nearly as possible symmetrical about them. (See reference 1.) The x axis is chosen as the line joining the centers of the leading- and trailing-edge radii. The origin is located midway between a point bisecting the distance from the leading edge to the center for the leading-edge radius and the corresponding point respectively (2a, 0) and (-2a, 0). In the following discussion the coordinate scale has been chosen so that a is unity. (For practical purposes it is probably sufficient to choose the chord joining the extremities of the mean line as the x axis.)

The following equations express the relationship between the airfoil coordinates previously described and the parameters θ and ψ .

$$\begin{array}{l}
x = 2 \cosh \psi \cos \theta \\
y = 2 \sinh \psi \sin \theta
\end{array} \tag{4}$$

In order to compute values of θ corresponding to any given point on the airfoil profile, equations (4) are solved for $\sin^2\theta$.

$$\sin^2\theta = \frac{1}{2}(h + \sqrt{h^2 + y^2})\tag{5}$$

where

$$h = 1 - \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{y}{2}\right)^2$$

A similar solution for $\sinh^2 \psi$ can be obtained but experience has shown that a more usable solution is given by the equation below

$$\sinh \psi = \frac{y}{2 \sin \theta} \tag{6}$$

A plot of ψ as a function of θ for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil is given in figure 11. The function ψ_0 is given by

$$\psi_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \psi d\theta$$

and can be determined graphically from the ψ curve or by a numerical evaluation. The value of ψ_0 for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil is

$$\psi_0 = 0.1044$$

The parameter ϵ as a function of θ is given by the definite integral,

$$\epsilon_n = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \psi \cot \frac{\theta - \theta_n}{2} d\theta \tag{7}$$

where the subscript n refers to the particular value of θ for which the corresponding value of ϵ is to be determined. A 20-point numerical evaluation of this integral is derived in reference 1 and is included here for convenience. The integral is evaluated at 20 equal interval values of θ , namely,

$$\theta_{0} = 0 = \theta_{-20}$$
 $\theta_{1} = \frac{\pi}{10} = \theta_{-19}$
 $\theta_{2} = \frac{2\pi}{10} = \theta_{-18}$
 \vdots
 $\theta_{20} = 2\pi = \theta_{0}$

The value of ϵ at $\theta_n = \frac{n\pi}{10}$ is given by the following equation.

$$\epsilon_{n} = -\frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\pi}{10} \left(\frac{d\psi}{d\theta} \right)_{n} + 1.091 \left(\psi_{n+1} - \psi_{n-1} \right) + 0.494 \left(\psi_{n+2} - \psi_{n-2} \right) + 0.313 + 0.217 + 0.158 + 0.115 + 0.0804 + 0.0511 + 0.0251 \left(\psi_{n+9} - \psi_{n-9} \right) \right]$$
(8)

where the subscripts designate the particular θ at which the named quantity is taken. A plot of ϵ as a function of θ for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil is given in figure 11. Thus far the calculations are identical with those made for the potential theory.

As stated in the discussion of the modified theoretical calculations, the circulation is evaluated by the experimentally known lift of the airfoil section. The wellknown equation relating the lift and the circulation is

Also by definition

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 c c_i$$

 $L = \rho V \Gamma$

Expressing the circulation in terms of the lift coefficient,

$$\Gamma = \frac{cV}{2}c_t$$

and finally

$$\frac{\Gamma}{4\pi R V} = \frac{c}{8\pi \bar{R}} c_t \tag{9}$$

Substituting the numerical values for the N. A. C. A. 4412,

$$\frac{\Gamma}{4\pi RV} = \frac{1}{6.915}c_1 \tag{9a}$$

The prediction of unreasonable velocities around the trailing edge is avoided by altering the ϵ function so that the velocity is zero at $\theta = \pi$. The altered function is designated ϵ_{α} and is arbitrarily assumed to be given by

$$\epsilon_{\alpha} = \epsilon + \frac{\Delta \epsilon_T}{2} (1 - \cos \theta) \tag{10}$$

where $\Delta \epsilon_T$ is the increment of ϵ required to give zero velocity at $\theta = \pi$ and is a function of the angle of attack. The quantity $\Delta \epsilon_T$ is given by

$$\Delta \epsilon_T = \epsilon_{\alpha T} - \epsilon_T$$

where ϵ_{a_T} is determined by equating equation (1) to zero and substituting from equation (9).

$$\sin (\pi + \alpha + \epsilon_{\alpha_T}) + \frac{c}{8\pi R} c_i = 0$$

Solving for ϵ_{α_T} gives,

$$\epsilon_{\alpha_T} = \sin^{-1} \frac{c}{8\pi R} c_l - \alpha$$

The parameters ϵ and ψ are conjugate functions of θ , Differentiating equation (10) and ψ is given by

$$\psi_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \epsilon \cot \frac{\theta - \theta_n}{2} d\theta + \psi_0$$

where the definite integral can be evaluated in the same manner as equation (7). The coordinates of the profile corresponding to the modified ϵ function can be obtained from the new ψ function by equations (4). Figure 12 gives the modified shape obtained by this method for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil at $\alpha=8^{\circ}$ and 16° .

The profiles given in figure 12 are, of course, only effective profiles corresponding to the calculations. The actual profile about which a potential flow might be considered as being established would be blunt at the trailing edge and would have the thickness of the wake at that point. The thickness of the boundary layer on the upper surface, however, is greater than that on the lower surface; therefore, if the trailing edge were taken as the midpoint of the wake and the after portion of the profile were faired to that point, the



Figure 12.—Change in profile shape associated with the modified theoretical calculation of pressure.

resulting shape would be similar to the effective profiles in figure 12.

The influence of the changes in ψ on the value of k are found to be negligible so that k_{α} may be written

$$k_{\alpha} = \left(1 + \frac{d\epsilon_{\alpha}}{d\theta}\right)k'$$

where

$$k' = \frac{e^{\psi_0}}{\sqrt{(\sinh^2\psi + \sin^2\theta) \left[1 + \left(\frac{d\psi}{d\theta}\right)^2\right]}}$$

$$\frac{d\epsilon_{\alpha}}{d\theta} = \frac{d\epsilon}{d\theta} + \frac{\Delta\epsilon_{T}}{2} \sin \theta$$

Plots of $\frac{d\epsilon}{d\theta}$ and k' as functions of θ for the N. A. C. A. 4412 airfoil are given in figure 11. Equation (1) for the velocity at any point on the airfoil profile is now written

$$v = Vk_{\alpha} \left[\sin \left(\theta + \epsilon_{\alpha} + \alpha \right) + \frac{c}{8\pi R}c_{t} \right]$$
 (1b)

The generality of the preceding method of calculating the pressure distribution about an airfoil section is supported by the following evidence. First, no restricting assumptions have been made in the development of the method. Second, the circulation is determined by a known quantity, the experimentally measured lift. Third, the change in the effective airfoil shape is in the direction indicated by boundarylayer considerations. Finally, the computed and measured pressures agree satisfactorily.

LANGLEY MEMORIAL AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY, NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS. LANGLEY FIELD, VA., March 25, 1936.

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TABLE I.—EXPERIMENTAL DATA—N. A. C. A. 4412 AIRFOIL

[Average pressure (standard atmospheres): 21; average Reynolds Number: 3,100,000]

			Ì								n-1	n		_					
	Orifice	s		Values of pressure coefficient, $P = \frac{p - p_{\infty}}{q}$, for different angles of attack															
Des- igna- tion	Station (percent c from L. E. of chord)	Ordinate (percent c above chord)	-20° 1	-16° 1	-12° 1	-8° 1	-6° 1	-4° ²	-2° 1	0° 2	20:	40 1	80.1	12° 1	16° 1	18° 1	20° 1	24° 1	30°1
28 1 29 30 31 1 32 3 3 3 4 4 34 5 5 6 6 8 6 7 37 8 8 38 9 100 4 11 1 12 2 42 3 1 3 1 4 4 1 5 1 6 6 6 1 7 7 1 8 8 4 8 1 9 1 4 1 1 2 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 5 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1	100. 00 97. 92 94. 86 89. 90 84. 94 74. 92 64. 94 49. 98 34. 90 22. 96 24. 90 19. 98 1. 66 0 0 1. 70 2. 94 4. 90 2. 94 2. 92 1. 66 9. 26 1. 70 1. 70 1	0 16 - 16 - 16 - 16 - 16 - 16 - 16 - 16	-0. 421 - 454 - 466 - 505 - 538 - 558 - 564 - 571 - 571 - 575 - 555 - 551 - 555 - 551 - 571 - 702 -1.053 -2.082 -3.204 -2.623 -1.178 -3.22 -3.322 -3.322 -3.322 -3.322 -3.322 -3.322 -3.322 -3.322 -1.178 -3.223 -1.178 -3.224 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204 -2.25 -3.204	-0. 199 -0. 251 -291 -330 -382 -454 -539 -614 -773 -786 -806 -819 -825 -816 -897 -1. 242 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 947 -3. 212 -1. 1947 -3. 212 -1. 1041 -1. 1041 -1. 1041 -1. 1041 -1. 1051 -1.	0. 114 . 159 . 107 . 074 . 035 . 043 . 101 . 199 . 252 . 304 . 368 . 4447 . 545 . 688 1. 660 2. 070 2. 807 3. 745 4. 940 6. 177 . 337 5. 495 043 . 596 . 883 . 974 . 886 . 752 . 649 . 408 . 407 . 329 . 257 . 172 . 140 . 068 . 009 . 030 . 069 . 075 . 075 . 095 . 082 . 096 . 096 . 096 . 096 . 096 . 096 . 096 . 096 . 092 . 097 . 092 . 092 . 075 . 092 . 092 . 075 . 092 . 092 . 075 . 092 . 075 . 092 . 092 . 075 . 092 . 092 . 075 . 092 . 092	0. 198 224 185 216 197 107 107 108 108 109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 115 1109 1109	0. 217 . 181 1. 52 . 122 . 072 . 049 . 000 . 063 . 099 . 128 . 169 . 217 . 367 . 490 . 663 . 149 . 159 . 274 . 387 . 1490 . 1931 . 2478 . 278 . 278 . 184 . 955 1. 009 . 939 . 761 . 542 . 344 . 208 . 089 . 014 . 052 . 117 . 196 . 228 . 241 . 241 . 276 . 272 . 238 . 214 . 188 . 118 . 118 . 118 . 118 . 118 . 118 . 118 . 118 . 118	0. 204 178 151 128 082 0688 028 - 024 - 053 - 075 - 105 - 106 - 36	0. 207 . 180 . 180 . 198 . 140 . 098 . 095 . 021 . 005 . 017 . 041 . 073 . 105 . 165 . 244 . 348 . 501 . 777 . 932 . 1. 959 . 932 . 1. 959 . 945 . 110 . 360 . 168 . 271 . 360 . 402 . 452 . 454 . 471 . 489 . 389 . 351 . 360 . 296 . 200 . 155 . 200 . 107 . 147	0. 200 183 106 1183 1196 1180 1196 1019 0050 0048 0031 0011 - 0151 - 1190 - 333 - 428 - 467 - 436 - 266 156 834 1. 010 720 468 - 179 - 312 - 388 - 468 - 179 - 312 - 388 - 468 - 508 - 509 - 519 - 509 - 509 - 519 - 301 - 314 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 596 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 594 - 596 - 594 - 594 - 596 - 594 - 596 - 594 - 596 - 591 - 301	0. 181 . 164 . 154 . 152 . 118 . 136 . 120 . 100 . 091 . 088 . 071 . 068 . 071 . 053 . 111 . 150 . 088 . 254 . 336 . 055 . 148 . 336 . 055 . 148 . 336 . 055 . 148 . 362 . 760 . 742 . 722 . 722 . 722 . 741 . 143	0. 158	0. 134 167 180 203 211 231 244 250 252 268 290 313 311 345 402 462 462 462 462 1013 905 -1. 740 -1. 7547 -1. 547 -1. 547 -1. 350 -1. 272 -1. 391 -1. 350 -1. 272 -1. 391 -1. 254 -1. 1350 -1. 272 -1. 391 -1. 254 -1. 436 -1. 272 -1. 391 -1. 285 -1. 982 -1. 982 -1. 690 -1.	0. 101 1.140 1.166 1.199 2.212 2.833 3.309 3.16 3.422 3.862 3.87 4.1433 4.722 5.18 6.16 6.713 8.18 9.94 8.91 1.0545 -3.250 -3.738 -2.357 -2.343 -2.158 -2.1769 -1.620 -1.1548 -1.502 -1.502	0. 010 1121 179 231 257 231 257 2444 426 4459 485 516 5897 6713 818 8896 980 .993 .791 4.478 8.6, 230 -5, 210 -4, 478 -6, 230 -7, 2149 -1, 952 -1, 841 -1, 758 -1, 438 -1, 269 -1, 1961 -1, 535 -1, 438 -1, 269 -1, 961 -1, 535 -1, 438 -1, 269 -1, 961 -1, 535 -1, 438 -1, 269 -1, 961 -1, 535 -1, 438 -1, 269 -1, 961 -1, 535 -1, 438 -1, 269 -1, 961 -1, 535 -1, 438 -1, 269 -1, 961 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 541 -1, 542 -1, 541 -1, 54	-0.062 -0.064 -0.094 -1.066 -237 -2370 -2370 -2348 -407 -4572 -505 -544 -576 -506 -6817 -785 -883 -981 -1.013 -2.285 -5.060 -7.775 -7.125 -6.110 -5.190 -7.715 -2.285 -2.285 -2.285 -2.285 -2.110 -5.190 -7.775 -1.1692 -2.415 -2.285 -1.050 -7.775 -1.1692 -1.573 -1.463 -1.255 -1.050 -7.34 -5.460 -7.34 -5.460 -7.34 -5.460 -7.34 -5.460 -7.34 -5.460 -7.34 -5.460 -7.34 -7.34 -7.340 -7.	-0. 173 -0. 173 -0. 127 -0. 124 -0. 224 -0. 237 -0. 247 -0. 25	-0. 466 291 160 030 030 048 3179 270 271 466 504 557 609 642 733 824 902 948 883 602 033 1671 3. 695 812 780 781 785 812 786 786 776 727 715 705 682 655 642 664 665 619 479	-0. 513 -304 -1. 036 -0. 179 -2. 289 -388 -307 -446 -498 -544 -498 -544 -1. 059 -2. 369 -2. 369 -2. 3730 -2. 369 -1. 249 -2. 369 -1. 249 -3. 730 -2. 569 -1. 249 -3. 750 -1. 249 -3. 750 -1. 249 -3. 750 -1. 249 -3. 750 -1. 249 -3. 750 -3. 7

¹ Test, variable-density tunnel 1098; manometer liquid, mercury.

TABLE II.—INTEGRATED AND DERIVED CHARACTERISTICS—N. A. C. A. 4412 AIRFOIL

α	C.	c.	Cm _{c/4}	c _i	α_i	α ₀
Degrees -20 -16 -12 -8 -6 -4 -2 2 4 8	-0. 592 767 722 372 210 0256 146 338 501 677	0. 0318 0170 1264 0445 0151 0163 0107 0098 0034 0258	0. 030 . 035 092 096 095 092 091 087	-0. 545 742 732 374 211 0255 . 146 . 338 . 501 . 677	Degrees -0.9 -1.2 -1.2 -6 -3 -0 2 -1.1 -1.1 -1.1 -1.1 -1.1 -1.1 -1.1	Degrees - 19.1 - 14.8 - 10.8 - 7.4 - 5.7 - 4.0 - 2.25 1 2 9 6.4
8 12 16 18 20 24 30	1. 020 1. 275 1. 548 1. 626 1. 640 1. 212 1. 009	1003 2043 3357 4040 4374 1838 0776	084 074 068 063 080 141 146	1. 024 1. 289 1. 579 1. 671 1. 690 1. 182 . 913	1.6 2.0 2.5 2.6 2.7 1.9 1.4	10. 0 13. 5 15. 4 17. 3 22. 1 28. 6

² Test, variable-density tunnel 1099-4; manometer liquid, tetrabromoethane.

TABLE III.—THEORETICAL PARAMETERS--N. A. C. A. 4412 AIRFOIL

Station (percent c)	Ordinate (percent c)	x	y	$\frac{\theta}{\pi}$	¥	θ+ε	Ordinate (percent c)	r	v	$\frac{\theta}{\pi}$	*	$\theta + \epsilon$	
	Upper surface								Lower surface				
0 25 .5 .5 1.25 2.5 6 7.5 10 15 20 25 30 40 60 70 80 85 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	0. 62 1. 25 1. 64 2. 39 4. 73 5. 76 6. 59 8. 80 9. 76 9. 80 9. 19 8. 14 9. 76 4. 89 2. 71 1. 47 . 13	2. 032 2. 031 2. 021 2. 021 1. 981 1. 931 1. 830 1. 730 1. 629 1. 427 1. 225 1. 024 824 1. 18 0. 149 389 -1. 196 -1. 196 -1. 196 -1. 802 -1. 924 -2. 003	0	0 .007 .034 .046 .073 .103 .103 .146 .179 .207 .254 .296 .333 .369 .435 .500 .560 .628 .702 .745 .793 .855 .910 1.000	0. 178	deg. min4 10 -2 4 32 1 4 35 9 48 15 29 23 48 30 19 35 58 45 25 53 56 61 26 68 32 106 11 119 0 132 48 140 23 149 23 149 23 159 56 169 18 184 3	0 60 88 1. 43 1. 95 2. 74 2. 88 2. 74 2. 26 1. 80 1. 00 39 30 22 1. 16 13 13	2. 032 2. 031 2. 021 2. 011 1. 980 1. 930 1. 628 1. 729 1. 628 1. 224 1. 023 820 417 - 390 - 1. 197 - 1. 197 - 1. 197 - 1. 802 - 1. 802 - 1. 924 - 2. 003	0 0129 0371 0454 07706 0916 1130 1227 1271 1271 1210 1005 0833 0460 03307 0190 0199 00081 0069 0013	0 - 012 - 034 - 043 - 069 - 098 - 140 - 172 - 292 - 330 - 366 - 435 - 500 - 500 - 704 - 795 - 856 - 912 - 1,000	0. 178	deg. min. -4 10 -6 20 -10 49 -12 52 -18 1 -23 48 -31 47 -37 39 -42 36 -51 11 -58 32 -65 2 -71 6 -82 47 -93 45 -103 50 -115 12 -127 32 -134 28 -142 25 -152 31 -161 34 -175 57	

TABLE IV.—THEORETICAL PARAMETERS—N. A. C. A. 4412 AIRFOIL

$\frac{\theta}{\pi}$	4	$\frac{d \psi}{d \theta}$	k'	ě	$\frac{d}{d\theta}$
0 .1 .2 .3	0. 1780 . 1924 . 2082	0 . 0611 . 0395	6. 201 3. 041 1. 777	-0.0727 0548 0258	0.0600 .0755 .1135
. 4 . 5 . 6 . 7	. 2128 . 2035 . 1806 . 1519 . 1214	0116 0527 0866 0942 1028	1. 326 1. 139 1. 088 1. 147 1. 350	. 0120 . 0492 . 0797 . 1002 . 1087	. 1220 . 1095 . 0800 . 0515 . 0230
.8 .9 1.0 1.1 1.2	. 0863 . 0501 . 0250 . 0118 . 0088	1166 1016 0590 0249 . 0020	1, 856 3, 528 3, 589 1, 887	. 1109 . 0975 . 0706 . 0403 . 0115	0130 0720 0960 0970 0925
1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6	. 0120 . 0192 . 0302 . 0470	. 0169 . 0284 . 0434 . 0661	1. 372 1. 167 1. 109 1. 163	0153 0385 0612 0837	0860 0785 0720 0640
I. 7 I. 8 I. 9 2. 0	. 0736 . 1080 . 1488 . 1780	. 0976 . 1211 . 1361 0	1. 361 1. 845 3. 205 6. 201	1029 1126 1070 0727	0505 0210 . 0640 . 0600